

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 OMB-01 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00

XMB-02 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 ISO-00 /079 W

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FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC CMEDIATE 1184

INFONRUEHDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 2005

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 9040

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, NI

SUBJECT: MEETING AT UNGA BETWEEN SECRETARY AND COLONEL GARBA

REF: A. LAGOS 8152 B. 8248 (NOTAL)

SECVISIT 30TH UNGA

1. IT APPEARS FAIRLY CERTAIN THAT COL. JOSEPH GARBA, FMG'S NEW COMMISSIONER EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, WILL ATTEND 30TH UNGA THIS MONTH (REFTEL A). EMBASSY RECOMMENDS IT BE AUTHORIZED INFORM FMG THAT SECRETARY LOOKS FORWARD TO OPPORTUNITY GET ACQUAINTED WITH COMMISSIONER GARBA DURING FORTHCOMING NEW YORK MEETING AND HOPES THAT DISCUSSION BETWEEN THEM CAN BE ARRANGED AT MUTUALLY CONVENIENT TIME. IPS FILE IS ONLY SOURCE WE HAVE ON SECRETARY'S POSSIBLE DATES IN NEW YORK WHICH ARE CITED AS 22-24- AND 29-30 SEPTEMBER. GARBA NOT RPT NOT EXPECTED RETURN LAGOS FROM EUROPE UNTIL LATE THIS WEEK BUT WE ARE CONFIDENT FMG COULD CONTACT HIM PROMPTLY IF WE HAD THIS KIND OF MESSAGE TO CONVEY.

2. WE BELIEVE THAT THIS IS HIGHLY PROPITIOUS MOMENT FOR SUCH AN
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INITIATIVE ON OUR PART. WE ASSESS NEW REGIME AND COL. GARBA IN

PARTICULAR AS CURRENTLY SELF-CONSCIOUS IN THE INTERNATIONAL ARENA AND PARTICULARLY VULNERABLE TO PERSUASION. HERE WOULD BE NO BETTER TIME OR WAY FOR US POSITIONS ON EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI AGREEMENT, OIL PRICE, CONSUMER-PRODUCER DIALOGUE, NEW ECONOMIC ORDER, KOREAN MEMBERSHIP QUESTION, ETC. TO BE IMPRESSED UPON NEW NIGERIAN REGIME.

3. WE HARBOR NO ILLUSIONS THAT A SINGLE CONVERSATION WOULD SIGNIFICANTLY SWAY FMG DECISIONS ON ANY SINGLE ISSUE, BUT BELIEVE MEETING WITH SECRETARY WOULD AT VERY LEAST PROVIDE IDEAL BASE FACILITATING SUBSEQUENT FOLLOW-UP IN WASHINGTON, LAGOS AND ELSEWHERE. SPECIFIC ISSUES ASIDE, MERE FACT THAT SECRETARY SOUGHT GARBA OUT WOULD BE THE KIND OF RECOGNITION NIGERIA HAS LONG THOUGHT IT DESERVED AS A NON-EMBARGOING AND MODERATE MEMBER OF OPEC. FURTHERMORE, SECRETARY'S REQUEST MEET WITH GARBA WOULD BE SEEN AS REFRESHING CHANGE BY CRITICS WHO CHARGE THAT LACK OF HIGH LEVEL US ATTENTION TO AFRICA AND AFRICANS PROVES THAT FORD ADMINISTRATION DOESN'T TAKE AFRICA SERIOUSLY.

4. PRINCIPAL SUBSTANTIVE POINTS THAT WE WOULD RECOMMEND SECRETARY RAISE WITH GARBA ARE THOSE IN PARAGRAPH TWO ABOVE. WE WOULD NOT EXPECT GARBA TO RAISE THESE HIMSELF. FOR OPENERS, SUGGEST SECRETARY MIGHT CONGRATULATE GARBA ON HIS APPOINTMENT AND REMARK ON APPARENT PRAGMATIC AND NO-NONSENSE APPROACH OF CURRENT FMG LEADERS TO NATION'S CHALLENGING DEVELOPMENT PROBLEMS. ON LIGHTER SIDE, HE COULD MAKE POINTS WITH A BASKETBALL

METAPHOR (GARBA WAS CAPTAIN OF NIGERIAN NATIONAL TEAM AND STILL PLAYS) AND EMBASSY WOULD NOT OBJECT SHOULD HE WISH REFER TO PRESENT US AMBASSADOR AS HAS-BEEN JOCK. HE MIGHT WISH REITERATE EMBASSY'S SATISFACTION THAT MOMENTARY UNPLEASANTNESS AT MOLONEY STREET NOW A MATTER OF THE PAST, THAT WE ARE WELL ON WAY TO REINSTALLATION IN NEW QUARTERS PROMOTED BY FMG, AND THAT WE LOOK FORWARD TO BEGINNING CONSTRUCTION ON NEW CHANCERY BY END OF YEAR. HE COULD SAY HE READ AMBASSADOR SANU'S SPEECH TO 7TH SPECIAL SESSION WITH INTEREST AND LOOKS FORWARD TO SEEING HIM IN WASHINGTON. (WHAT IS STATUS OF AGREEMENT REQUEST?)

5. WE WOULD EXPECT MEA TO ARM GARBA WITH SEVERAL TALKING
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POINTS HE MIGHT RAISE. NIGERIAN SIDE LIGHT:
(A) ON ANGOLA, CONDEMN CABINDAN SECESSIONISTS AND SOUTH AFRICAN "INVASION" AND EXPRESS FMG'S HOPE THAT ANGOLAN INDEPENDENCE WILL BE REAL AND NOT COMPROMISED. (BACKGROUND: NIGERIANS DISTRUSTFUL OF ZAIRE'S INTENTIONS AND FUTURE INFLUENCE OVER POST-INDEPENDENT ANGOLA UNDER CONTROL OF ROBERTO AND FNLA - SEE LAGOS 8126. ALSO, PRESS HERE HAS ALLEGED THAT U.S. IS SUPPLYING ARMS TO FNLA THROUGH ZAIRE - SEE LAGOS 8812).

(B) ON REPORTS OF WEST GERMAN ATOMIC REACTOR FOR SOUTH AFRICA, ASK USG USE INFLUENCE PREVENT SUCH SUPPLY. GARBA MIGHT ASK ABOUT US POLICY ON SUCH SALES BY US COMPANIES. (BACKGROUND: NIGERIAN REACTION TO REPORTED SALE WAS RAPID ND EXTREMELY NEGATIVE. FMG HAS ASKED WEST GERMANS FOR EXPLANATION AND DETAILS. SEEKAGOS 8880. AT SAME TIME, THERE IS UNDERCURRENT OF SUSPICION IN NIGERIA THAT NUCLEAR TEST BAN HAS BEEN RIGGED BY SUPERPOWERS TO KEEP DEVELOPING NATIONS WEAK AND DEPENDENT) SECRETARY MIGHT WISH RESTATE USG'S OPPOSITION TO NUCLEAR ARMS PROLIFERATION AND REFER NIGERIANS TO STEPS WE TAKE TO ATTEMPT ASSURE THAT REACTORS MADE AVAILABLE TO NON-NUCLEAR POWERS ARE USED FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES ONLY. RE POSSIBLS SALE BY US COMPANIES, SEE LAGOS 8963.

(C) ON TAKEOVER OF OIL FIELDS* MENTION THE RECENT CONGRESSIONAL STUDY PREPARED BY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS ON A US MILITARY TAKE-OVER OF VENEZUELAN AND NIGERIAN OIL FIELDS.

(D) ON SOUTHERN AFRICAN PROBLEMS, SEEK A MORE "POSITIVE" US STANCE ON RHODESIA (VIZ. BYRD AMENDMENT) AND ON NAMIBIA (VI. ROLE OF AMERICAN COMPANIES, TAXES THEY PAY TO SOUTH AFRICAN AUTHORITIES, ETC.)
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